

Joseph S. Cole House  
Prince Valley Road  
Truro  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-741

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MASS,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOSEPH S. COLE HOUSE

HABS No. MA-741

Location: North side of Prince Valley Road, just east of Old County Road.  
Truro, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Carl R. Wheeler.  
163 Buchanan Street.  
Winthrop, Massachusetts.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler.

Present Use: Summer residence.

Significance: This interesting example of a small "house and a half" closely resembles the Thomas Paine II building contract of 1843. It is located within the area of the Cape Cod National Seashore

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and subsequent owners Wall map of 1858 shows owner as Joseph Cole. Earliest reference is deed of Lydia Bryant to Joseph Cole, dated April 13, 1850, of "upland under and around where his dwelling-house now stands." Barnstable County Deed Book #43, p 52, courtesy of Silas Clark, Wellfleet Attorney, Pamet Point Road.

Date of erection Before 1850.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Dr. E. A. Connally, in his study of the Cape Cod house in 1959, found that this house closely resembled a house described in a building contract between Andrew Cobb, mariner and Thomas Paine II, housewright of Truro, in 1843, for the construction of a house-and-a-half (now disappeared) off Old County Road in South Truro. See his article "The Cape Cod House; an Introductory Study", Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol XIX, No. 2, May, 1960, pp 47-56. This article also has a sketch plan of this house.

Original plans None known to exist.

Alterations and additions Late 19th century kitchen on west side; still later ell behind it; original chimney has been taken down, although much interior woodwork remains; sashes and doors have been replaced.

Historical events connected with structure Not investigated.

Important old views None available.

Sources of information Mr. Silas Clark.

Likely sources not yet investigated Truro and Barnstable County  
Records.

Prepared by Ernest Allen Connally  
Summer 1959  
Typed by Charles S. Dotts  
Cape Cod Survey I  
August 25, 1960

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit This is a one and a half story, Cape Cod "house and a half" located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore.

Condition Good.

### THE EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions 23 x 24 feet.

Foundations Brick.

Wall construction Probably post and beam, with clapboard on south exterior and shingles on other sides.

Porches, stoops Two small wood steps at south entrance.

Chimneys One brick, over center of original house, has been rebuilt.

Openings - doors modern door at south entrance.

windows Modern 2/2 lights in wood sash, d.h.; two 9/6 sash in original kitchen and one 6/6 sash in upper bedroom.

Roof - shape, covering Pitched, gabled, modern composition cover.

cornice, eaves wood box cornice, narrow eaves.

dormers none.

### THE INTERIOR

Floor plans Original house consisted of two window front room on east, and one window front room on west, with original kitchen probably located back of these rooms. Partition on east end of kitchen includes stair, probably later, as other Cape Cod houses had the buttery and small bed room located here. The original stair could have run from the entry, between the east and west room; there is visible evidence of former partition here. Upper floor has one finished chamber over southwest room.

Stairways One, to second floor, apparently built later than house.

Flooring Random width pine floors.

Wall and ceiling finish Plaster on sawn lath, no wainscoting.

Doorways and doors Double door frame with pilaster blocks, apparently original. 6 panel interior doors.

Trim Mantels very simple, incipient Greek.

Lighting Electric.

Heating East fireplace blocked up, hearth removed.

SITE

Orientation House faces south in typical Cape Cod manner with ridge of original house parallel to the road. Lee of hill, close to road.

Enclosures None.

Outbuildings None

Walks, driveways Drive to west of house.

Landscaping Informal, fair.

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